

INSTRUCTION**Experimental and Innovative Programs**

Experimental and innovative programs which may improve the educational program are encouraged by the Stafford County School Board to the limits of financial practicability.

An experimental program shall be a program which is operated under controlled circumstances and which is designed to test and to establish, by objective measures, the positive cognitive effect of an educational theory.

An innovative program shall be a program shown to produce a positive educational effect but which does not meet standard operating or procedural requirements.

All new programs of an experimental nature must have the approval of the board regardless of the sources of financial support.

The board shall seek a waiver (Exhibit A) from the State Board of Education should the innovative or experimental program not be consistent with accreditation standards or other regulations of the State Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Through June 30, 1999

Regulations of the Virginia Board of Education, "Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia." 8VAC 20-131-290. "D. With the approval of the local school board, local schools seeking to implement experimental and/or innovative programs that are not consistent with accreditation standards or other regulations promulgated by the Board shall submit a waiver request, on forms provided to the Board of Education for evaluation and approval prior to implementation."

Interpretive Supts. Memo, No. 2, July 24, 1998.
Clarification of Accrediting Issues.

Adopted by School Board: March 24, 1987
Amended by School Board: June 29, 1999

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

6-19
(Exhibit A)

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CERTAIN ACCREDITING STANDARDS

Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) set the minimum standards public schools must meet to be accredited by the Board of Education. Accreditation of public schools is required by the Standards of Quality (§ 22.1-253.13:1 et. seq.). The annual accrediting cycle for public schools is July 1 through June 30.

This cover sheet, with the supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Department of Education for review and recommendation to the Board at least 90 days prior to the beginning of an accrediting cycle or the proposed implementation of the program or activity that precipitates the request for the waiver. The types of waivers available and the corresponding section of the standards are indicated below. Please feel free to attach additional sheets or information deemed appropriate.

SCHOOL DIVISION _____

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY _____

TYPE OF WAIVER REQUESTED:

- ☐ Approval of an Alternative to the Standard School Year and School Day (8 VAC 20-131-150)
- ☐ Approval of an Experimental Program (8 VAC 20-131-290 D)
- ☐ Approval of an Innovative Program (8 VAC 20-131-290 D)
- ☐ Approval of a Waiver of Other Provision(s) of the Standards (8 VAC 20-131-330)

SCHOOL(S) INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAM/ACTIVITY _____

Date Approved
by the Local School Board

Submission Date

Signature
Chairman of the Local School Board

Signature
Division Superintendent

SCHOOL DIVISION _____

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY _____

IF THE PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE, EXPLAIN WHY.

IF THE PROGRAM IS EXPERIMENTAL, INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT EXPLAINS WHY THERE IS REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE PROGRAM WILL WORK.

DESCRIBE THE RATIONALE FOR AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE REQUEST FOR A WAIVER.

DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM.

SCHOOL DIVISION _____

TITLE OF PROGRAM/ACTIVITY _____

DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURES THAT WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE THE PROGRAM/ACTIVITY'S EFFECTIVENESS
(Include information that includes measurable goals, objectives, and student academic achievement that will be expected
as a result of the implementation of the program/activity)

Number of Students Involved in the Program _____

What is the anticipated length of the program? _____

LIST THE REGULATIONS FROM WHICH YOU REQUIRE WAIVERS IN ORDER TO OPERATE THE PROGRAM OR
ACTIVITY AND A STATEMENT INDICATING WHY RELEASE FROM THE REGULATION IS NECESSARY.

Questions should be directed to Charles W. Finley, Principal Specialist for Policy Analysis, Department of Education at
(804) 225-2747 or by e-mail to cfinley@pen.k12.va.us. This application and supporting documentation must be sent to:

Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120